

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

1. (previously presented) Interface for a lamp operating device comprising,
at least one input-side terminal for the connection of bus lines or for
connection with a button or switch,
an evaluation logic for the processing of signals present at the input-side
terminal and for the generation of output-side signals for the control of the lamp operating
device, and
at least one electrical isolation element adapted to electrically decouple the
input-side terminal from the lamp operating device,
wherein the evaluation logic is arranged on a side of the electrical isolation
element towards the at least one input-side terminal, and wherein
the evaluation logic is supplied with voltage by the at least one input-side
signal terminal.
2. (previously presented) Interface according to claim 1, wherein,
the evaluation logic is configured to at least partially switch off a connected lamp
operating device.

3. (currently amended) Interface according to claim 2, wherein,
the evaluation logic is configured to transmit by means of the electrical isolation element signals or commands to the connected lamp operating device so that the lamp operating device is separable from ~~[[the]]~~ a mains voltage.

4. (currently amended) Interface according to claim 2, wherein,
the lamp operating device is separable from ~~[[the]]~~ a mains voltage by means of a relay or an optocoupler controlled triac.

5. (previously presented) Interface according to claim 1, wherein,
the evaluation logic is configured to transmit setting values to a connected lamp operating device utilizing a separate electrical isolation element.

6. (previously presented) Interface according to claim 1, wherein,
the electrical isolation element is configured also to transmit, in bi-directional manner, signals from a connected lamp operating device to the input-side terminals and, if applicable, to a bus connected thereto.

7. (previously presented) Interface according to claim 1, wherein,
in an idle condition, in which no signals are transmitted, a high level signal is present at the input-side terminals, which signal supplies the evaluation logic with energy.

8. (currently amended) Interface according to claim 1, wherein,
in ~~[[the]]~~ an idle condition, in which no signals are transmitted, there is present at the input-side terminals a low level signal, and the evaluation logic can be activated by means of a change to a high level signal.

9. (currently amended) Interface for a lamp operating device, comprising,
at least one input-side signal terminal for the connection of a bus line or
for connection with a button or switch, and
an evaluation logic for the processing of signals present at the at least one input-side terminal and for the generation of output-side signals for the control of the lamp operating device wherein,
the evaluation logic has a voltage supply independent of ~~[[the]]~~ a mains voltage supply of the lamp operating device.

10. (previously presented) Interface according to claim 9, wherein,
the evaluation logic is supplied with voltage by means of the at least one input-side signal terminal.

11. (previously presented) A ballast for a fluorescent tube, having an interface in accordance with claim 1.

12. (currently amended) Method for the control of a lamp operating device via an interface, comprising the following steps:

application of bus signals or button/switch signals to at least one input-side terminal of the interface,

processing of signals present at the input-side terminal and generation of output-side signals for the control of the lamp operating device, and thereupon

transmission of the processed control signals by means of an electrical isolation element to the lamp operating device, wherein,

[[the]] a voltage supply for the processing of the signals present at the input-side terminal and for the generation of the output-side signals for the control of the lamp operating device is effected via the at least one input-side signal terminal.

13. (currently amended) Method according to claim 12, wherein,

by means of the electrical isolation element signals or commands are transmitted to the connected lamp operating device, so that the lamp operating device is separated from [[the]] a mains voltage.

14. (currently amended) Method according to claim 13, wherein,

the lamp operating device is separated from [[the]] a mains voltage by means of a relay or an optocoupler controlled triac.

15. (previously presented) Method according to claim 12, wherein,

by means of the electrical isolation element setting values are transmitted to the connected lamp operating device.

16. (previously presented) Method according to claim 12, wherein, signals are transmitted from a connected lamp operating device to the input-side terminals and, if applicable, to a bus connected thereto.

17. (previously presented) Method according to claim 12, wherein, in an idle condition, in which no signals are transmitted, a high level signal is present at the input-side terminals, which signal supplies the evaluation logic with energy.

18. (previously presented) Method according to claim 12, wherein, in an idle condition, in which no signals are transmitted, a low level signal is present at the input-side terminals and the evaluation logic is activated by means of a change to a high level signal.